

Appln. No. 10/722,943
Amendment dated July 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 31, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The May 31, 2005 Final Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Inasmuch as the present Amendment raises no new issues for consideration, and, in any event, places the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal, its entry under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 11 are allowed and that claims 3, 5-10 and 12-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

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PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over USP 4,655,312 (Frantom et al.) in view of USP 5,495,254 (Uemura et al.).

In response, claim 2 is cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection under 35 USC 103 moot.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

As indicated above, claim 2 is cancelled. Claim 3 is amended and rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 2.

In addition, since claims 5-10 and 12-17 were indicated in the first Office Action to be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of original claim 2, claims 5-10 and 12-17 are amended herein to be in independent form to include limitations from original claim 2.

In view of the cancellation of claim 2 and the amendment of claims 3, 5-10 and 12-17 to be in independent form, claims 3-17 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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CLAIM FEE

The highest number of claims for which payment was previously made in this application is three (3) independent claims and twenty (20) total claims. The application after entry of the present Amendment includes fifteen (15) independent claims and fifteen (15) total claims. Submitted herewith is a credit card authorization form in the amount of \$2,400.00 for the presentation of twelve (12) independent claims above of highest number of independent and total claims for which payment was previously made. If any additional fees are due or if any overpayment has been made, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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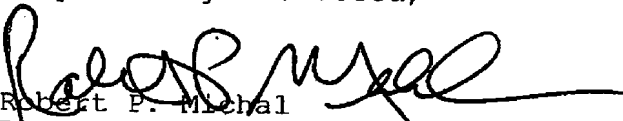
Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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Encl.: Credit Card Authorization Form in the Amount of \$2,400.00